2.2 **Labour and Wages.** It has already been mentioned above that a large number of people attain an income—agricultural as well as non-agricultural. Owners of big orchards employ labourers for clearing of their orchards twice or thrice a year, plucking and transporting of produce to markets. Paddy cultivators with large farms employ labourers for ploughing and hoeing of fields, sowing, harvesting and threshing of paddy. It should be mentioned that due to the peculiar agricultural practices prevalent in the district, the input of labourers even for paddy cultivation is higher than that in any of the plains district of the State, which compels cultivators to hire labourers even for small party fields. In the case of male adult labourers are usually paid in cash and for food crops it is paid in cash and kind (some meals) in kind. Wage rates for males and females are different which generally vary from Rs.1.50 or 1.25 for males and Rs.1.25 to Rs.1.00 for females.

There are however, numerous instances of engaging agricultural labourers at the rate of Rs.4.00 per day. During the busiest months the cultivators have to face the grave action of the people as sometimes they threatens will have to be made to reducing labour to wage basis at the rate of Rs.4.00 per day in the evidence. Hence almost daily services are demanded. Thus whenever their services are demanded the poor people have to work in cultivator's farm even at the cost of ruining their own cultivation.

There are other instances where the labourers are paid for their meal wages. In some villages where there is dearth of work all the agricultural labourers gather together at some specified place early in the morning. The cultivators bargain for them and through bargaining manage to reduce the number of hands they want or very few even handful willing hands at wages of non-agricultural labourers is also prevalent wherein demand for labour is very low.

Land utilisation and cropping

2.3 **Land utilisation.**—The district of United K.J. Hills is not substantially surveyed and so far as land census is concerned, there is no civil census or regular census with the name, with the exception of three hats under the control of the Town Final Degree Area and the Local Bodies Council. There are different kinds of land under different names though for various reasons no reliable statistics can be gathered in respect of them. So far as land census falling subdivision, Mouzas, land in the whole district can be broadly placed under the following categories:—

2.4 **1. Ryotwari or Private land.**—They are private land belonging to certain clans or families but not to an individual according to Khasi custom. Under Town and District Council has got any private ryot. There exists the cultivating owners or more any dispute that can arise about any plot of land. The only connection is with the State Forest Department in respect of private protected forest who collect royalty from the produce of these forests if they are used for purposes of

...trade. Rajas are mostly found in the higher hills region—the area known as the Northern portion of the district comprising the Lushai and Mizo hills constitutes a major portion of the total area of land in Mizoram subdivision. In Jowai subdivision private lands are very small in area, only 5,200 acres in total and they are known as 'Siang'.

II. Raj Lands.—They are lands belonging to nobody. It can be said to be a common property which everybody has a right to use, of course with necessary permission from 'Village Raj' in respect of Raj lands under the village or from Syiem in respect of Raj lands under the Syiem. In case of Raj lands the land continues to be in possession of one so long as he cultivates them but as soon as he ceases cultivation it reverts back to the Raj. The land which is known in the official term as enclosed land (Jaiem) is also Raj land but is under the control of the District Council.

Raj lands are found everywhere in the district though the major portion is found in Khasi area and in Jri area for purpose of cultivation permission is given to any Khasi from any part of the district, while elsewhere in the district, this is confined to the local people only.

III. Land under Communities.—In War area in both subdivisions here are some raj land holders who are locally known as communities. There is no record of the number of such communities and the amount of land held by them. These lands provide suitable area for cultivation of valuable soil crops like betelnut, wongkit, betelleaf, sugarcane and other fruits. The petty landlords are not at all powerful but it is necessary to recite the reasons. Generally, the landlord keeps out of the land as long as they wish and the rent is realised from the cultivators in kind and the rate varies according to the fertility of the soil and other considerations from all points of view. On the average the rate per year is 10 % of the produce in case of betelnut. Rs. 10-00 per acre of land per year (usually 5 to 6 years) in case of betelleaf cultivation and in case garden cultivation of the land is also taken the produce is shared in the ratio 50:50 otherwise 1:10 between the landlord and the tenants. For other crops, generally the rent is negligible or nil.

IV. Estate lands under the above main three categories there are also land which are under control and management of the State Forest Department and the District Council in United K.J. Hills.

V. Forest reserve under Assam Forest Regulation VII, 1891.—There are three categories of reserves under the control of the Forest Department in Khasi-Jaintia subdivision covering a total area 51,198 acres and two in Lushai subdivision covering an area of 4,861 acres. The total area is 1,89,109 acres, i.e., 173 sq. miles.

VI. Forest reserve under execution orders of Government.—These forests are also under the control of the same Department as mentioned in the preceding para, etc. There are only five of these within the Khasi subdivision and around the town of Shillong. The total area covered is 1,218 acres only, i.e., about 2 sq. miles.

(c) **Cross Blocks**—These cross boxes are private forest but governed and managed by the Department for the purpose of obtaining the source of water supply, etc., for the town of Shillong. They are five in number covering a total area of 2.24 sq. miles and located around the town of Shillong itself.

(d) **Private protected Forests**—There are private forests protected by the State Government for the growth of forests, but the owner can use them provided permission is given by the Deputy Commissioner. There are 10 numbers of them scattered here and there throughout the whole of Shillong subdivision only and covering an area of more than 2.73 sq. miles.

V. In Jowai subdivision there are four blocks of land covering a total area of 8.9 sq. miles reserved for sports and games. They are under the control of the State Revenue Department.

VI. **Raj lands of unclassed State Protected Forests**—This includes the Raj lands under the District Council mentioned in item 3 above. These forests were formerly under the control of the State Forest Department but are now transferred to the District Council. They are scattered throughout the whole of the district and cover an area of more than 1995 sq. miles. There are altogether 52 numbers of such forests, 30 of them with an area of more than 37.00 sq. miles and are in Shillong subdivision and 22 numbers with an area of 18 sq. miles are in Jowai subdivision.

3.11.1. **Revenue collected by the District Council (Land Revenue System)**—(a) In Jowai subdivision all the Raj lands mentioned in item 9 above which have been brought under settlement are subjected to payment of annual revenue. The revenue is fixed according to the fertility of the soil. There are three classes—class I hali lands, class II hali lands and class III hali lands, and the revenue varies according to these three classes of lands from Rs. 0.38 to Rs. 0.87 per highs per year. There are altogether 10,000 plots covering a total area of [illegible] acres. No such revenue exists in Shillong subdivision.

(b) In both subdivisions there are also lands under special settlement accompanied by revenue.

Shillong subdivision—An annual revenue is collected for the building site only from Nongthymmai village, where there are 160 holdings Rs. 320-12 per year.

Seven pieces of land in Borsihar used by the United Fruit Company covering a total area of 102.00 acres. The revenue collected per year is Rs. 150.00. A revenue of Rs. 2. only per year is collected from one building area at Nongpoh station whose area is 19,361 sq. ft.

Jowai subdivision—An area of 131 acres of land in Lakadong and Sarpoila Gallonias and under orange cultivation is also subjected to payment of annual revenue of Rs. 210-00.

Ph. Assam C-5 (1958) 1963 A87 Chasi A87

3.3 **Measures so far taken.**—Since 1947, there has been constant demand from border people for relief and rehabilitation. Government undertook various measures to alleviate their difficulties. Government's attention to border problem has however, not been adequate. The common feeling of border people was that whenever the border problem developed due to some adverse measure adopted by East Pakistan authorities more attention was attracted, on the other hand, when the situation eased comparatively the Government's vigilance also slackened.

The various measures so far adopted by Government in border area, have been fully discussed and commented upon by the Border Rehabilitation Committee. They need no repetition here. But a few points emerging from the discussions put forward by the villagers during our investigation are noted below.

On the question of the schemes linked up with the issue of diversification of agriculture in border area, a large section of the border people skilled in the maintenance and operation of orchards are opposed to the idea of a complete switch over from cash crops to food crops in the cultivation of which they have no adequate experience. Moreover, there is the problem of getting adequate land in the vicinity for such public cultivation. Indeed, having lost the market for some of the cash crops, some cultivators are quite in favour of increased cultivation of paddy and other valuable crops on their own initiative wherever suitable land is available. But the problem of getting adequate lands for reclamation and improvement of land has stood as a serious handicap to them. Financial assistance to the needy and willing cultivators for reclamation works and taking up of more minor irrigation projects is very necessary.

As regards Government lands granted to cultivators, people complained that apart from being inadequate they are often unsuitable. As a result the people, needy as they are, suffer the misery for nothing. Such lots are sometimes especially

These have been complaints that various improved seeds supplied by Government are of very inferior quality having no sense of time and no use of the poor people. The Department of Agriculture should not only check the quality of the seeds before issue but should also see that the seed are properly used by improvement cultivators who are really taking up cultivation of these crops.

With the opening up of a few vital P. W. D. roads [illegible] and the growth of [illegible] communications in border areas, [illegible] local points on P. W. D. roads will probably improved. While during [illegible] these roads may be negotiated by a rise in [illegible] and down the very precipitous, during rainy season these roads become slippery, the streams and rivers are [illegible] and it becomes impossible for a motor vehicle [illegible] thus isolating the villages from each other leading to the ruin of [illegible] villages. People showed [illegible] for construction of [illegible] and bridges linking up these villages with motor [illegible] to the people who [illegible] much of the difficulties of transportation of agricultural produce.

19: Assam G-5 (1958) 1963 AR7 Khasi AR7

Regarding supply of foodgrains through fair price shops, the position appeared to be unsatisfactory. Complaints were heard from some villagers coming from the interior villages that they very rarely get rice from fair price shops, which are usually allotted to bigger villages, sometimes too far from the villages tagged to it. Even the people of the villages where there were fair price shops, complained that the supply of rice to these shops was inadequate and the price also was very high which in some areas was even as high as Rs. 2/-00 per maund.

In a majority of the villages investigated, water supply and medical facilities were not satisfactory. Malaria, dysentery and other bowel diseases are common in the area.

7.6 The purposes for which the loans were incurred and different sources of loans are summarised in the following table :-

TABLE I-5

Loans by source and purpose

Source	Co-operative Agriculture loan		Other Government loan		Co-operative Societies		Money lender village Mahajan		Owner of land		Others		Total	
Purpose	No.	Amount (Rs)	No.	Amount (Rs)	No.	Amount (Rs)	No.	Amount (Rs)	No.	Amount (Rs)	No.	Amount (Rs)	No.	Amount (Rs)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
A. Border Area—														
1. Education	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2. Marriage and other social functions	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3. [illegible]	--	--	--	--	--	--	30	15,613	1	15	6	330	37 (5)	15,958 (20)
4. Purchase of draught animal	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	600	--	--	--	--	1	600

1971 Census
Assam
C-5
(1959)
1963
ADC Book
ADC

TABLE E-5—*contd.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
5. Purchase of land	8	1,520	..	..	8	3,120	..	..	4	2,500	15	7,180
											(1)	(4)
6. Purchase of seed manure and minor irrigation and other agricultural purposes.	835	68,030	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	3,555	1	200	850 (79)	71,840 (44)
7. Construction and purchase of real assets and other durable and semi-durable goods.	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	2,800	..	..	1	1	8 (1)	2,801 (1)
8. Household consumption	..	..	6	2,500	..	..	11	16,503	..	..	1	700	23	20,703
													(2)	(13)
9. Repayment of debt	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	3,423	..	..	..	..	6	3,423
														(2)
10. Others	..	..	..	..	41	23,350	..	..	62	32,963	..	..	63	2315	116	60,128
													(11)	(28)
Total	..	..	835	68,030	48	30,400	..	..	113	69,331	15	3870	37	6046	1000	1,68,100
		(71)	(41)	(3)	(18)	..	..	(13)	(41)	(1)	(2)	(2)	(4)	(100)	(100)

4/6/9
4361
639
8

4/26
453
659

TABLE E-5—*contd.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
B. Project area—														
1. Education	—	..	..	...	∞	..	1	1,000	..	...	...	..	1	1,000 (1)
2. Marriage and other social functions.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2,100	..	..	..	..	2	1,000 (1)
3. Normal maintenance.	..	..	...	..	1	65	105	39,211	12	1,793	2	245	180 (38)	40,314 (65)
4. Purchase of draught animal ..	1	750	2	600	..	..	2	620	...	...	..	...	5 (1)	1,570 (2)
5. Purchase of land.	2	400	.	...	..	..	10	3,130	..	..	..	..	12 (2)	3,530 (4)
6. Purchase and manure, minor irrigation and other agricultural purposes.	215	19,805	..	..	2	100	73	7,105	5	648	...	..	295 (59)	27,058 (81)
7. Construction and purchase of bullock carts and other durable and semi durable goods. ..	..	..	1	200	..	..	2	1,000	..	..	..	..	3 (1)	1,200 (1)
8. Livestock enterprise. —	..	..	...	..	..	..	13	1,800	...	..	..	..	13 (3)	1,800 (2)
9. Repayment of debt.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	400	..	..	..	..	1	400 (1)
10. Others. .. .. .. —	..	9	9	1,610	3	160	65	8,165	..	..	1	207	56 (11)	10,195 (12)
Total .. .. —	218 (43)	21,155 (26)	12 (2)	2,210 (3)	6 (1)	381 (76)	212 (56)	63,081 (76)	17 (3)	2,441 (3)	3 (1)	452 (1)	508 (100)	88,697 (100)

TABLE E-5—*concld.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
C. General area—														
1. Education.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Marriage and other social functions.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	60	..	..	..	..	1 (3)	60 (1)
3. Normal maintenance.	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	4,604	5	518	..	..	32 (53)	5,122 (51)
4. Purchase of draught animal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Purchase of land	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Purchase of seed, manure, minor irrigations and other agricultural purposes.	10	1,084	..	..	..	..	13	2,570	..	..	..	..	19 (32)	3,254 (32)
7. Construction and purchase of real assets and other durable and semi-durable goods.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Household enterprise.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Repayment of debt	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Others.	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1,200	..	..	..	..	8 (13)	1,600 (16)
Total	10	1,084	..	..	..	..	45	8,434	5	518	..	..	60	10,036
	(22)	(11)	..	..	..	..	(75)	(84)	(0)	(5)	..	..	(100)	(100)

19: Assam G-5 (1958) 1965 AR7 Khasi AR7

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4426
452
659

20: Hunter G-4 (no date) 1897 AR 7 Khasi AR 7

In former years the Khásiás were great iron-smelters, and enormous excavations in the most favourable localities for obtaining ironstone prove the extent to which this manufacture was carried on. In some places the whole surface of the ground appears to have been dug up for a depth of several feet, leaving huge boulders standing up here and there. Of late years, however, as the price of labour in the Hills has risen, the trade in iron has died away, and there is now little demand for the Khásí article, the cheaper English metal having driven it out of the market.

NATURAL PHENOMENA.—Many peculiar caves and caverns are found in the limestone rock formation, the most notable being the caves at Cherrá Púnji and at Rápnáth in Jowai. At the latter place the caverns extend a great distance beneath the earth, one being imagined by the people to reach as far as China, and a Hindu legend states that a Chinese army once marched by this route to the invasion of India. In another cave the limestone stalactites have been carved into images representing the gods of the Hindu pantheon. On the banks of the Kapilí river on the Cáchár border, at a place called Sumir, there is a hot spring, the water of which contains carbonate of lime. All the rivers in the Hills flow through gorges in certain parts of their course, the most picturesque being at Tehriá, where a small stream is compressed into deep pools among limestone rocks; and at Dawaná and Bonghát, where the Mangat and Mantideo rivers respectively debouch upon the plains.

FORESTS, ETC.—The India-rubber or Caoutchouc tree is found in many forests throughout the Hills, but not in great numbers, and the supply and value of the gum has much decreased of late years. In 1870 the right of tapping the trees in the Jáintiá Hills was leased out for a sum of £36, 10s. 0d.; at present [illegible] almost entirely ceased. There are some tracts of timber forest on the lower hills towards the Brahmaputra valley, but through the want of water carriage they are of no great value. Vigorous efforts are being made to preserve the forests in the higher plateaux. Owing to the habit of firing the jungle in spring prior to sowing, great waste of valuable timber has taken place; but since the country has been separated from Bengal and placed under the administration of the Chief Commissioner of Assam, attention has been given to the matter, and special areas are now being set apart for the preservation and growth of forest timber. Cinnamon grows wild in some parts of the country. There is a considerable trade carried on in

20: Hunter G-4 (no date) 1897 AR7 Khasi AR7

There is considerable trade carried on in
245 *nupit* or bay leaves, the trees being extensively cultivated by the
439 inhabitants of the lower slopes of the hills on the Sylhet border. The finest oranges in India are also grown in groves in the same tract, the value of the trade in which is now (1876) estimated to amount
237 to £3760 per annum. Lac is gathered by the Mikirs in the Jaintia
439 Hills, but not to any great extent. Bees are both domesticated
231 and found wild, and an extensive trade in bees-wax is carried on, the amount exported being estimated at from three hundred to four hundred *maunds* annually. The whole of the Hills, where there is
233 no forest, and where the land is not under cultivation, consists of
621 rich pasture grounds, which are held in common by the villagers
651 and pay no revenue to Government.

137 The forests of the Khási and Jáintia Hills do not yield much profit either to the British Government or to the chiefs. There
[648] are no reserved forests in the District; and according to the Deputy-
• [659] Conservator, the total area of unreserved forest, *viz.* of land covered with timber trees and not at present required for jhúm cultivation, is only 150 square miles. The trees found are chiefly pine, and those classified as 'mixed upper hill forests.' At an elevation of 3000 feet, the *Pinus Kasia* predominates over all other vegetation and forms almost pure pine forests. It is found also at lower heights, and there attains larger dimensions, but only in the case of isolated trees. The 'mixed upper hill forests' are confined to a series of sacred groves, which clothe the topmost ridge of the watershed between the valleys of the Brahmaputra and Surma. The characteristic trees are those of a temperate vegetation, chiefly consisting of oaks, chestnuts, magnolia, Schima, Cinnamomum, Pinetus, Engelhardtia, etc. There are also numerous other timber trees, including the valuable *sál* (*Shorea robusta*) and the rubber tree (*Ficus elastica*), [illegible] forests. Of these, the *sál* and rubber are reserved for the
[648] existence of forest. Early in 1874-75 measures were taken to put a
[659] stop to the indiscriminate burning of the forests, and the Sirdars and village officers were made responsible for the conservancy of the sacred groves. These endeavours have met with some success; but it is a very difficult thing to change the habits of a population, or to induce uncivilized tribes to incur a small temporary inconvenience for the sake of future benefit. The total area directly protected from fire during the year 1875-76 is returned at 3618 acres; the expenditure was Rs. 100; and in ten prosecutions for breaches of forest rules, twenty-three persons were convicted.

20: Hunter G-4 (no date) 1897 AR? Khasi AR?

public auction. The Assam rules, as revised in 1873-74, reserve to Government the right of pre-emption at the price of Rs. 600 (£60) in the case of every elephant captured between 8 feet and 8½ feet in height. For every elephant caught that is not purchased by Government, a royalty of Rs. 100 (£10) is payable within one month after capture. Certain methods of hunting are prohibited.

POPULATION.—Prior to 1872 no attempts had been made at a Census of the Khási and Jáintia Hills, but in 1872 the Deputy-Commissioner approximately estimated the population at 118,905 souls. In 1874, at the time of the Bengal Census, operations were not so full in these Hills, but on a less elaborate system than in Regulation Districts. In the Khási Hills, the Census of the various petty States was effected through the chiefs; in British territory in the Jáintia Hills, the *dolloi* conducted the enumeration; while at Shillong and other places under direct administration, the work was done by officers attached to the Deputy-Commissioner's office. The results are thus returned:—*Adults*—males, 33,880; and females, 44,038: total adults, 87,980. Children under twelve years of age—males, 28,611; and females, 28,047: total children, 57,658. Total males, 62,553; total females, 72,085. Grand total, 141,638; proportion of males, 48·36 per cent. The total area of the Districts, according to the latest returns, is 6,137 square miles, which gives an average density of 23 persons per square mile. The number of villages is 1,023; the number of houses, 30,555, of which 330 are returned as of the better sort.

ETHNICAL DIVISIONS OF THE PEOPLE.—The population consists almost exclusively of aboriginal tribes and races, viz. Khásiás and Syntengs (who form the bulk of the inhabitants of the Khási and Jáintia Hills respectively), Bhóis, Cúrws, and Kukis. The only other dwellers in the Hills are the European officials and military officers at Shillong and Cherra Púnjí, with their native servants and followers, a few Bengálí officials, and the sepoys of a regiment of native infantry. The classification of the inhabitants according to religion shows:—141,183 aborigines; 385 Hindus; 60 Muhammadans; and 108 Christians, including 33 Europeans, 8 Eurasians, and 83 native converts.

THE KHÁSIÁS.—The following sketch of the physical characteristics and customs of the Khásiás has been kindly furnished to me by the Deputy-Commissioner, Colonel Rivet; it is reproduced almost verbatim from his report and on his authority:—

20: Hunter G-4 (no date) 1877 AR? Khasi AR?

731 predominantly filthy villages on the Cherrá Púnjí plateau the epidemic appears to have found a fitting home, for it stayed among them for a period of nine weeks and a half. The civil surgeon reports the deaths in Cherrá Púnjí and the surrounding villages to have amounted to about 175 out of a total of 230 cases. During the year 1876-77 hooping-cough and small-pox were prevalent in an epidemic form. In the Jáintiá Hills small-pox is stated to have caused 47 deaths, chiefly during the months of June, July, and August. Some fatal cases of hooping-cough occurred among the Khási children in the village of Mikkilan, near Shillong. The only two cases of cholera reported were in the Jáintiá Hills.

16 VITAL STATISTICS.—A general system of registration is not attempted throughout the Khási and Jáintiá Hills District. Statistics of births and deaths are only collected among the inhabitants of the Stations of Shillong and Cherrá Púnjí, and in the selected area in the vicinity of Jowái, which comprises the following seven villages:—Jowái, Nongkah, Nartiang, Wyrnus, Amwi, Rallang, and Shumpáng. This selected area has a population of 12,504. Each village forms a distinctly-circumscribed community, in which the statistics are readily ascertained and reported by the *dolói* or head-man. The returns may be regarded as commonly close to the truth, both for births and deaths; and they thus furnish an approximate statement of the health of the entire Hills. In 1874 the total number of deaths in the selected area was 351, showing a death rate of 28 per thousand; the number of births was 431, or 34·5 per thousand. The total population of all the places in which vital statistics are collected is 15,456 persons, among whom 408 deaths were recorded in 1876, showing a death-rate of 27·6 per thousand, as compared with 27·3 per thousand in the preceding year. The deaths were thus distributed—24 from cholera, 198 from fever, 38 from bowel complaints, 2 from snake-bite or wild beasts, and 66 from all other causes. The mortality from fevers was the highest recorded throughout the entire Province. On this the civil surgeon observes:—'There are few local sources of malaria in the Hills. Many of the deaths from fever were probably due to typhoid, induced by the use of impure water and by the filthy state in which the people live. There is no attempt at conservancy in a Khási village. In Jowái, a good specimen of the class, the lanes and pathways are strewn with excrement and house refuse. Drinking water is got from wells in the heart of the village, fed by the drainage of the

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